

City of Benson, Arizona

RESOLUTION 45-2012

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, REGARDING SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project is a plan to construct approximately 500 miles of two single-circuit 500 kV transmission lines and associated substations to interconnect SunZia with numerous 345 kV lines in both Arizona and New Mexico for electrical transmission to the population centers in both states; and

WHEREAS, SunZia will create jobs and tax revenue in local towns and counties, as documented in a recent study by the University of Arizona and New Mexico State University; and

WHEREAS, SunZia will enable the development of utility-scale renewable energy projects (solar, wind, etc.) in the Desert Southwest; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy projects are good for the environment and help to minimize our dependence upon foreign sources of energy, reduce air pollution and diversify the sources of energy on which we rely; and

WHEREAS, SunZia will strengthen our infrastructure and improve the reliability of the Arizona and western electrical grid systems; and

WHEREAS, SunZia will generate money for Arizona schools through future State Trust Land lease payments; and

WHEREAS, the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been conducting a thorough environmental review of SunZia for the past three years under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and has received extensive input from numerous stakeholders in central and southern Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the BLM has conducted multiple public meetings on SunZia in Cochise County during 2009 and 2012 to solicit local input; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department and Arizona Department of Transportation are Cooperating Agencies in SunZia's NEPA process and have a responsibility to assist the BLM in providing Arizona's assessment of SunZia's alternatives and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the federal government does not supersede the authority of state and local control and decision making in siting transmission lines on non-federal property; and,

WHEREAS, the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee and Arizona Corporation Commission will conduct its own thorough review of SunZia under the state's Certificate of Environmental Compatibility process in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the City of Benson desires that the route to be selected through southeastern Arizona should have the fewest impacts on land use within the greater Benson region of Cochise County, Arizona.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, that its recommendation is for Subroute 4B of the Route Group 4 alternatives be selected, as this route has fewer impacts on land use in the greater Benson region than BLM's Preferred Alternative, known as Subroute 4C2c, or the other alternatives under consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that BLM should conclude its environmental review of SunZia and issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision before the end of 2012 in order for SunZia to proceed to the state and local permitting processes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, this 27th day of August, 2012.



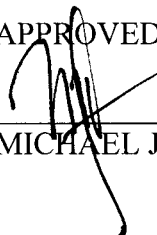
TONEY D. KING, SR., Mayor

ATTEST:



VICKI L. VIVIAN, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



MICHAEL J. MASSEE, City Attorney